

## CLAIMS AMENDMENT

1. (currently amended) A supportive spring base for a mattress for a place to sleep and/or recline, the supportive spring base having:

a) a plurality of spring slats running at a parallel distance to one another and lying in a common plane, and

b) a frame having longitudinal struts which run transversely with respect to the spring slats and belong to a frame, on which the spring slats being are mounted with their end regions on the longitudinal struts, characterized by and

c) connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 37) for connecting at least two of the spring slats (10) to in each case other,

wherein the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 57) comprise load-bearing means (15, 34) and spring elements, with the spring elements partially protruding with respect to the plane of the spring slats (10) in order to impart independent spring properties to the connecting elements, and with the load-bearing means (15, 34) holding the spring elements between two adjacent spring slats (10).

2. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 37) are of at least partially elastic design for transmitting at least part of the movement of a particular spring slat (10) to at least one preferably adjacent spring slat (10).

3. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein vertical compressive deflections of the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) and/or spring slats (10) are at least partially transmitted to adjacent spring slats (10) by the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35), and one particular connecting element (13, 31, 32, 35) is arranged between two adjacent, parallel spring slats (10).

4. (currently amended) The supporting spring base as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 37) are mounted, in particular an elastically and/or in an articulated manner, on at least two different spring slats (10).
5. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 25) are mounted on the spring slats (10) in such a manner that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 37) are movable relative to the spring slats (10) both in a rotational and translational manner.
6. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one spring element of the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) ~~have at least one spring element which is preferably designed as a bellows (33, 36), a spring plate and/or an elastic wing (14).~~
7. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) have ~~spring elements, load bearing means (15, 34) and/or~~ suspension devices (16, 18) for connecting the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) to the spring slats (10).
8. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 4 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) have suspension devices (16, 18) which can be rotated relative to the spring slats (10) about a longitudinal axis of the particular respective spring slat (10), and in that the suspension devices (16, 18) are additionally movable in a translational manner with respect to the spring slats (10).

9. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 4 7, characterized in that wherein at least one of the suspension devices (16) of the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) is assigned at least one locking device (24) which fixes the particular respective connecting element (13, 31, 32, 35) nondisplaceably in the longitudinal direction of at least one spring slat (10) in a frictional and/or non-positive manner, and/or the ~~or each~~ locking device (24) is connected flexibly to the particular load-bearing means of the connecting element (13, 31, 32, 35), ~~namely the load-bearing means (15, 34) of the same~~, in such a manner that the ~~or each~~ locking device (24) does not substantially impair the mobility of the suspension devices (16, 18).

10. (withdrawn) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the spring slats (10) are connected by a connecting element (37) having a plurality of continuous strands (39), the strands (39) running in a direction deviating from the longitudinal direction of the spring slats and extending transversely with respect to the longitudinal direction of the spring slats (10).

11. (withdrawn) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in that the strands (39) run parallel to one another at identical distances, the distances between the strands (39) being smaller than the distances between the spring slats (10).

12. (withdrawn) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in that the strands (39) are of elastic design, and consist at least for the most part of plastic.

13. (withdrawn) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in that the strands (39) are connected to the spring slats (10) at the point at which they extend over the spring slats (10).

14. (withdrawn) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 12, characterized in that, in the regions between the spring slats (10), the strands (39) can be changed in respect of their elastic properties by means of inserts and/or attachments and can be provided with greater stiffness.

15. (withdrawn) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in that the strands (39) are connected by transverse strands (40), and the strands (39) and the transverse strands (40) are connected to one another integrally at their crossing points to form a net (38).

16. (withdrawn) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 15, characterized in that the net (38) is connected to the spring slats (10) in the region of transverse strands (40), which extend over the spring slats (10), by means of releasable elastic clamps (41).

17. (withdrawn) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 15, characterized in that the net (38) can be stiffened by means of inserts and/or attachments between the spring slats (10) in order to change the coupling to the spring slats (10), and/or at least areas of the net (38) are provided with disk springs.

18. (withdrawn) The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 15, characterized in that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) and the net (38) are of such elastic design that the supportive spring base can be rolled up.